Adulterated food items

1579. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been seized of the growing campaign especially in the electronic media about large production of adulterated milk, ghee and other food items endangering human health in blatant violation of the food safety norms stipulated in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954;

(b) if so, whether Government has initiated any steps primarily to ascertain veracity of these campaigns and for enforcement of the law in bonafide cases, during the last two years; and

(c) the status of steps envisaged in the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (34 of 2006) for enforcement of its provisions?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. Government is aware of the reports about production of adulterated milk, ghee and other food items in different parts of the country.

(b) In order to keep a check on adulteration in milk, the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts have been advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil by drawing samples regularly especially of dairy products from all sources viz Manufacturers, Wholesalers and Retailers and to take strict action against the offenders under the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954. 41 State Food Laboratories have been strengthened with manpower, building wherever necessary. State of the art equipment, Orientation Training to Laboratory Staff/Chemists/Public Analyst under the World Bank Assisted Capacity Building project on Food & Drugs for effective implementation of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 in the States/U.Ts.

(c) Section 3 to 18, 30, 81-88, 90-93, 99 and 101(a total of 31 out of 101 sections) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 have been enforced. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has already been set up as per the provisions of the said Act. The Staff/Employees of various Departments/Ministries administering various food laws have also been transferred to Food Authority as per the provisons of the said Act.

Medical reimbursement

1580. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government Retired Pensioners who are undergoing treatment for cancer in Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre, after obtaining required permission from CGHS, are not being paid full reimbursement charges for PET. CT. Scanning expenses incurred by them; and

(b) keeping in view that such scanning is to be done 3 to 4 times for cancer patients, whether Health Minister proposes to prescribe rates for full reimbursement of Rs. 22,000 instead of Rs. 7,500